

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONSERVATION AND DESIGN PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, for the past 20 years, the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act has been one of the most successful government-sponsored, youth-focused conservation education programs. This dynamic program incorporates scientific and wildlife management principles into visual arts curriculum in both public and private schools. As a national program, children in all states have the opportunity to learn about bird conservation while simultaneously developing a strong appreciation for art.

I can attest to the success of this program and would like to congratulate the 2009 Wisconsin Federal Junior Duck Stamp competitors and, in particular, the 22 students from Wisconsin's Third District who placed in the contest. I am proud to say that of the over 600 entries from the 53 schools participating in the State of Wisconsin, the "Best of Show" went to Yvette Bauer of Ithaca Public School in Richland Center, located in my District.

The youth of today will become the leaders of tomorrow. We must therefore encourage our youth to become stewards of America's irreplaceable wild places and treasured outdoor heritage.

I strongly support the reauthorization of the successful Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program and look forward to seeing this bill passed in the House today.

## AIRLINE SAFETY AND PILOT TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. EARL POMEROY**

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 14, 2009*

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express concern with certain provisions of H.R. 3371, the Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009.

While I strongly support the goal of the bill to increase airline safety and improve pilot training, I am concerned about changing current rules to require an airline pilot to hold an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) certificate, which necessitates a minimum of 1,500 flight hours. During a hearing in September Tim Brady, dean of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's College of Aviation, testified that these added requirements could increase the cost of pilot training fivefold from \$40,000 to \$200,000. I am concerned that these in-

creased costs could encourage pilots to seek less costly training alternatives and potentially be counter to the bills intended goal, of increasing safety.

By dramatically increasing the costs of training we will drive our most qualified potential pilots out of accredited flight schools such as the John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences at the University of North Dakota that have produced exceptional pilots for decades. Graduates of these programs receive high quality flight instruction that is much more valuable than a pilot who might just be racking up straight and level flight time that has no increased educational or safety benefits. The focus on total flight hours rather than the quality of those hours will not provide the increased safety and pilot quality that is the goal of this legislation. It could in practice have the opposite effect, by driving students to undertake low value flying at the expense of high quality directed flight training. I believe that as this legislation moves forward some consideration must be given to Collegiate Aviation Programs that have been accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International (AABI). This will help to increase the focus of these requirements on quality of training rather than quantity of flight hours.

While I will be voting in favor of this legislation in order to move forward the important process of increasing the safety of commercial aviation, I do so with reservations. Before this legislation becomes law I believe that it is vital that the bill be modified to recognize the tremendous benefits that our nation's accredited flight schools provide.

## RECOGNIZING HOLLAND MAYOR ALBERT "AL" MCGEEHAN FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE HOLLAND CITY COUNCIL

**HON. PETER HOEKSTRA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to honor Holland Mayor Albert "Al" McGeehan for his years of selfless service on the Holland City Council.

Mayor McGeehan was born on Staten Island in New York Harbor in October 1944. He first moved to Holland to attend Hope College. He graduated from Hope College in June of 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Michigan Secondary Teaching Certificate.

With his educational preparation and certification, Mayor McGeehan began a teaching career in the Holland Public Schools that spanned five decades.

In the summer of 2004, President George W. Bush, while addressing a crowd of 15,000 Holland residents, shortened Mayor McGeehan to simply, Mayor "Al." The title better suited the Mayor and stuck like glue.

Mayor "Al" was first elected to city council in 1977 where he served four "four-year" terms as a Councilman-at-Large. He is now in his eighth term as mayor of the city.

As a teacher, Al McGeehan served as Chair of the Social Studies Department for Holland Public Schools. Upon his retirement, he worked as a morning radio talk show host for WJQ 1260 AM.

For three years, Al represented the Michigan Municipal League as the League's West Michigan Regional Coordinator. He has served on several committees of the Michigan Municipal League and the National League of Cities. From 2006 to 2008, Mayor "Al" served consecutive terms as President of the Michigan Association of Mayors.

The Mayor's passion for studying and collecting artifacts from the time of the American Civil War is well-known throughout Michigan and beyond. He has taught and lectured on the subject. He has authored a book and several magazine articles relating to the Civil War and he has been known to often occupy the very best parking spaces at local antique shops.

Mayor Al has been married to his wife Marsha for 45 years.

## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church in Dieterich, IL.

On January 1, 1860, 14 men signed the constitution of St. John, a document that has continued to govern the church to this day. St. John is one of the oldest churches in the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

I would like to congratulate the members of St. John Lutheran Church for reaching this milestone and wish them a blessed and joyous celebration as they mark 150 years of service to God and their community.

## RECOGNIZING JOHN KEETON

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 15, 2009*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Keeton of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. Mr. Keeton has been an outstanding Democratic activist for more than twenty years throughout Worcester County. An attorney in the Worcester area, Mr. Keeton's devotion to the pursuit of justice has portrayed his passions of human rights, social justice, and equality for all. In acknowledgement of his dedication, passionate beliefs, and hard work, Mr. Keeton has been selected to receive the 2009 Eleanor Roosevelt

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